

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 ERDE-00 NRC-05 EB-07

ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 IO-10 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4166

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T USNATO 5743

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR

SUBJECT: MBFR: PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF OPTION III

REF: USNATO 5666 DTG 171510Z OCT 75

1. DURING THE OCTOBER 20 SPC MEETING, THE ALLIES HAD THEIR FIRST DISCUSSION OF THE US/FRG PAPERS ON THE PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF OPTION III (REFTEL).

2. THE UK REP (BAILES) SAID HER AUTHORITIES FORESEE THE NEED FOR WELL-DEVELOPED PRESS GUIDANCE TO BE AGREED BY THE ALLIES IN ADVANCE; HOWEVER, THEY HAVE SOME GENERAL PROBLEMS WITH THE EXISTING PAPERS. LONDON FEELS THE PROCEDURE FOR DETERMINING THE TIMING ON THE USE OF SUCH PRESS GUIDANCE AS OUTLINED IN THE FIFTH SENTENCE OF PARA 5 OF THE DRAFT PAPER MAY BE TOO SLOW. THE UK SUGGESTS THE ALLIES DEVELOP SCENARIOS OUTLINING POSSIBLE CIRCUMSTANCES, E.G., ON THE NUMBER AND KIND OF LEAKS, IN WHICH  
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THE USE OF THE PRESS GUIDANCE WOULD BE AUTHORIZED IN A MATTER OF HOURS RATHER THAN DAYS.

3. THE UK AUTHORITIES BELIEVE THE ACTUAL PRESS STATEMENT SHOULD

BE SHORT AND COMPREHENSIVE. THEY SUGGEST THAT THE CURRENT STATEMENT CONTAINED IN PART II OF THE DRAFT PAPER BE REORDERED THUSLY; PARAS C, D, A, E, G AND I. PARAS B, F AND H SHOULD BE HELD AS SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL. THE UK FINDS THE PRESENT SUPPLEMENTAL GUIDANCE CONTAINED IN PART III OF THE DRAFT TO BE SOMEWHAT DUPLICATORY.

4. THE UK REP POINTED OUT THAT THE GOALS OF AN ALLIED PRESS GUIDANCE ARE CONTRADICTORY: ON THE ONE HAND, THE ALLIES MUST REASSURE THEIR RESPECTIVE PUBLICS THAT OPTION III WILL NOT HARM THE SECURITY OF THE ALLIANCE; WHILE, AT THE SAME TIME, NATO MUST ENSURE THAT OPTION III IS PRESENTED TO THE EAST AS A SERIOUS, WORTHWHILE PROPOSAL. SHE FORESAW A SPECIAL DIFFICULTY IN EXPLAINING THAT THE LACK OF CONSTRAINTS ON NON-US ALLIES AND A SIMILAR LACK OF CONSTRAINTS ON THE WP WILL NOT LEAD TO CIRCUMVENTION OF ANY AGREEMENT. SHE ALSO BELIEVED THAT ALLIED SPOKESMAN WILL BE QUERIED ABOUT THE NUMBERS INVOLVED IN OPTION III AND WILL NEED GUIDANCE ON THIS POINT.

5. THE ITALIAN REP (CIRAPPICO) SAID HIS AUTHORITIES ARE THINKING ALONG THE SAME LINE AS THE UK. THEY CAN GENERALLY ACCEPT THE PAPERS; HOWEVER, THEY BELIEVE THAT SOME PARTS OF THE PAPER GO TOO FAR TOWARD REASSURING THE WESTERN PUBLIC AND MIGHT DENIGRATE THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE PROPOSAL IN EASTERN EYES. HE SAID PARAS G AND H OF PART II AND PARAS F AND G OF PART III OF THE DRAFT PAPER MIGHT BE LOOKED AT IN THIS RESPECT; FOR EXAMPLE, HE QUESTIONED THE NEED FOR THE WORD "FULLY" IN THE FIRST SENTENCE OF PARA F, PART III, SUGGESTING THAT "ADEQUATE MILITARY CAPABILITY" MIGHT BE SUFFICIENT.

6. THE BELGIAN REP (WILLOT) BELIEVED THAT THE PROCEDURE ON AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE PRESS GUIDANCE CONTAINED IN THE FIFTH SENTENCE OF PARA 5 OF THE DRAFT WAS GOOD. IN FACT, HE SUGGESTED THAT IT SHOULD BE MOVED TO THE BEGINNING OF THAT PARAGRAPH OR EVEN TO THE BEGINNING OF THE WHOLE PAPER. HE SAID THE AHG IS IN THE BEST POSITION TO SIGNAL THE NEED FOR PRESS GUIDANCE, BUT THE AHG SHOULD NOT BE THE SOLE JUDGE. HE BELIEVED THAT NAC  
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APPROVAL MIGHT TAKE TOO MUCH TIME AND WONDERED IF SPC COULD NOT DEVISE A SYSTEM OF NAC APPROVAL BY "NON-VETO", I.E., IF NO ALLY PROTEST WITHIN A CERTAIN TIME-FRAME, THE USE OF THE PRESS GUIDANCE IS AUTHORIZED.

7. THE US REP (MOORE) SAID HE COULD AGREE TO CONSIDER MOVING THE RELEASE PROCEDURE SENTENCE FORWARD IN THE PAPER. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE BELGIAN "NON-VETO" APPROVAL SYSTEM IS THE SAME AS COUNCIL APPROVAL BY THE SILENCE PROCEDURE. HE ALSO AGREE IT IS BETTER TO LEAVE THE INITIATIVE ON DETERMINING THE NEED FOR THE GUIDANCE WITH THE AHG; IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO DEVELOP SCENARIOS AS PROPOSED BY THE UK.

8. THE NETHERLANDS REP (MEESMAN) AGREED WITH THE US REP THAT IT WOULD BE TOO DIFFICULT TO DEVELOP RELEASE SCENARIOS. CANADIAN REP (BARTLEMAN) THOUGHT THE DRAFT PAPER WAS GOOD. HE APPROVED OF THE BELGIAN PROPOSAL FOR A "NON-VETO" SYSTEM OF NAC APPROVAL AND HE AGREED WITH THE US JUDGMENT AGAINST RELEASE SCENARIOS.

9. THE UK REP SAID THE IDEAS OF HER AUTHORITIES ARE NOT AS RIGID AS SHE HAD MADE THEM SOUND. WHAT LONDON DESIRES IS BROAD AGREEMENT IN ADVANCE ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH A STATEMENT WOULD BE RELEASED, AND THE IDEA OF A SINGLE STATEMENT TO BE RELEASED EVERYWHERE AT THE SAME TIME.

10. REGARDING THE UK POINT ON THE BASIC CONTRADICTION IN THE GOALS OF THE ALLIED PRESS GUIDANCE, THE BELGIAN REP SUGGESTED IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO DISCUSS OPTION III IN TERMS OF NOT WEAKENING THE DETERRANCE CAPABILITY OF THE ALLIANCE, RATHER THAN IN TERMS OF SECURITY. THIS WOULD MAKE IT EASIER TO STRESS THE MUTUAL CHARACTER OF AN MBFR AGREEMENT.

11. THE FRG REP (HOYNCK) SAID HE BELIEVED THAT THE NUCLEAR WARHEADS INCLUDED IN THE OPTION III OFFER DESERVE MENTION IN THE PRESS GUIDANCE PAPER. THESE WITHDRAWALS WILL REQUIRE PARTICULAR CARE IN ORDER TO ASSURE WESTERN PUBLICS THAT ALLIED SECURITY WILL NOT BE WEAKENED, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME MAINTAINING THE SERIOUS NATURE OF THE WESTERN OFFER. ON A SECOND POINT, HE WAS PERSONALLY RELUCTANT TO LEAVE THE INITIATIVE ON TIMING OF A PRESS RELEASE SOLELY TO THE AHG SINCE THE AHG IS NOT ALWAYS IN SESSION.

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12. THE US REP AGREED THAT THE FRG REP HAD RAISED A VALID CONCERN. HE SUGGESTED THAT A SECOND SENTENCE ON RELEASE PROCEDURES MIGHT BE NEEDED WHICH WOULD PRESUMABLY LEAVE THE DECISION TO THE NAC ALONE IF THE AHG WERE NOT IN SESSION.

13. ACTION REQUESTED: IF POSSIBLE, IN TIME FOR SPC MEETING THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24: GUIDANCE ON:

A) THE ACCEPTABILITY OF A LEAD-IN SENTENCE TO PARA 1 OF THE PAPER TO READ AS FOLLOWS: "ALLIED OFFICIALS AND SPOKESMEN SHOULD NOT USE THE CONTENT OF THIS PAPER EXCEPT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARA 5 BELOW."

B) THE ACCEPTABILITY OF THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE AFTER THE PENULTIMATE SENTENCE IN PARA 5: "IF THE AD HOC GROUP IS NOT IN SESSION THE NAC ALONE WILL MAKE THIS JUDGMENT."

C) COMMENT ON UK IDEA OF HAVING ONE BRIEF STATEMENT THAT ALL ALLIED SPOKESMEN WOULD USE. THIS WOULD SEEM TO US UNNECESSARY. NAC COULD AUTHORIZE, IN RESPONSE TO AHG INITIAL JUDGMENT, USE OF SOME OR ALL OF THE ELEMENTS OF A PRESS STATEMENT. THIS APPROACH WOULD APPEAR MORE FLEXIBLE AND WORKABLE THAN A SINGLE,

ALL-PURPOSE STATEMENT.

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